

Your submission to Proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags

Reference no: 68

Submitter Type: Individual

Clause

1. Do you agree with the proposed mandatory phase out of the sale or distribution of single-use plastic shopping bags in New Zealand, including those made of degradable (eg, oxo-degradable, biodegradable and compostable) plastic? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

All single use plastic bags are damaging to the environment - we need to eliminate this harm to full effect

Clause

2. We have proposed a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags. This could include under 50 microns or under 70 microns in thickness. If you agree with a mandatory phase out, which option do you prefer, and why?

Position

less than 70 microns in thickness

Notes

Clause

3. Are you aware of types of single-use plastic shopping bags that should be exempt from a mandatory phase out?

Position

No

Notes

Clause

4. Do you currently manufacture, sell, provide or import for sale or personal use these types of single-use plastic shopping bags:

Position

No

Notes

Clause

5. Should smaller retailers be exempted from a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags? Why / why not?

Position

No

Notes

Clause

7. The proposed mandatory phase-out period for single-use plastic shopping bags is at least six months from when regulations are Gazetted , subject to consultation. Do you agree with this timing?

Position

No

Notes

Should be 6 months or less - every day that plastic bags are being created/distributed causes lasting, irreparable damage to the planet

Clause

7a. If no, what do you think would be a more appropriate phase-out period?

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

6 months at maximum - as short a time period as possible, damaged caused each day by the production, distribution and disposal of plastic cannot be undone

Clause

8. Do you agree that the benefits expected from implementing a mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags exceed

the costs expected from implementing the phase out? Why / why not? Please consider both monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits (those that can be measured by money as well as those that can't).

Position

Yes

Notes

To care for the planet which homes us, feeds us and gives us life is more valuable than an monetary figure. However that said - the cost of climate change impacts is MASSIVE, from the cost to tourism, to clean up and repairs from increasing extreme weather events etc.

Clause

9. Do you think that reasonably practicable alternatives to single-use plastic shopping bags exist in New Zealand? Why / why not?

Position

Yes

Notes

Maori kete are a practical, traditional and environmentally friendly alternative to plastic bags. Encouraging people, schools, communities to weave bags will not only benefit the environment but bring us in line with who we are as tangata whenua and tangata tiriti.

Clause

10. How can people be encouraged to reuse multiple-use shopping bags enough times to offset the environmental impacts of producing them? (select one or more)

Position

Other (please specify)

Notes

Was unable to select multiple, both both of the above. Also "boomerang bags" and similar initiatives where shoppers are able to borrow bags to return to the shop if they forget to bring theirs so they don't need to buy new ones. Less reusable bags for sale at stores - counterproductive to have so many different bags/different designs as it encourages people to want to buy more reusable bags with different designs. Encouraging the use/creation to Maori kete from harakeke, a sustainable alternative

Clause

13. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions about the proposed mandatory phase out of single-use plastic shopping bags.

Notes

There is so much other single use plastic beyond simply shopping bags - the next step is to focus on these eg. straws, balloons, glitter, glad wrap, packaging, q tips, coffee cups etc. This is a great start and a great opportunity for NZ to show real climate leadership - with policy that is as strong as possible to ensure a safe future for our planet

You have elected to withhold your personal details from publication.